

Minutes

Asheville City Council – Public Safety Committee February 16, 2010 - 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Fourth Floor Municipal Building Training Room

Present: Council Members: Councilmember Bill Russell, Chair; Vice Mayor Brownie Newman, Councilmember Cecil Bothwell
 Staff: Jeff Richardson, Chief William Hogan, Chief Scott Burnette, Division Chief Barry Hendren, Shannon Tuch, Officer Steve Riddle, Phil Kleisler
 Guests: Charlie Hume

Approval of the Committee Minutes

- The committee by consensus approved the January minutes.

Asheville Public Safety: Moving Forward

- Assistant City Manager Jeff Richardson referred the January committee meeting, where staff were asked to provide a public safety briefing covering big picture items moving forward.
- Presented by Chief Burnette and Chief Hogan, the presentation covered:
 - o Challenges with Police and Fire facilities
 - o Equipment and vehicles
 - o Human capital
 - o Successes in public safety
 - o Future agenda items
- The committee then discussed partnership possibilities in Asheville (specifically with the Asheville Regional Airport), as well as the cost effectiveness of quick response vehicles.
- Councilmember Newman asked if it is possible to receive a sketch showing the different Asheville Police beats and where the officers are located on a typical day. Chief Hogan stated that this can be provided.
- The committee discussed the recent work the Asheville Housing Authority, specifically regarding the Gun Buy Back Program and the Police Department's Community Resource Officer.
- Councilmember Russell commented on Police retention and asked if retention is still showing a positive trend. Chief Hogan explained that while the retention trend has stabilized, it may be starting to slip.

Electronic Gaming Operations Update

- Shannon Tuch discussed the gaming industry's response to new regulations, the spread of these operations across the state, the conservative approach the City of Asheville has taken, and the current enforcement difficulties.
- The committee then discussed how this issue relates to public safety. Staff noted that public safety concerns are generally issues such as drug use, loitering, late night noise, indoor smoking, and a high volume of cars.

- Committee members and staff then discussed special use licenses, and if these restrictions could be applied to the gaming operations.

Future Agenda Items

- The committee agreed to tentatively cancel the March Public Safety meeting and place the following items on the April agenda:
 - o Bicycle Safety
 - o Asheville Police Department- Quarterly Report
 - o Asheville Fire and Rescue- Quarterly Report

Public Comment

- There was no public comment

Next Meeting

- The committee by consensus agreed to tentatively cancel the March Public Safety Committee meeting. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20, 2010, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building 4th floor training room.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.